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**Committee on House Administration**  
*Ranking Member*

**Committee on Appropriations**  
*Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies*

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 15, 2023

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

I write you today regarding public reporting of the renegotiation of an expiring gaming compact between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the State of New York. I request that the Department of the Interior thoroughly review the contents of the renegotiated compact once it is submitted to you, and that your office makes every effort to ensure that state and local officials, as well as the residents of the region, are properly consulted throughout the renegotiation process.

I am deeply concerned with the lack of information provided to the New York State Legislature, local officials, and the citizens of my community in Monroe County, New York pertaining to the renegotiated gaming compact. According to public reports, closed-door negotiations between the State of New York and the Seneca Nation of Indians have resulted in a new draft compact that includes a casino within the borders of Monroe County, with some reports indicating a site in downtown Rochester. These secret negotiations have excluded local stakeholders from a decision that may have a long term and profound impact on my constituents.

While authorizing legislation is currently before the New York State Assembly, the lack of transparency has significantly limited the ability of state legislators to make a well-informed decision. I am angered that no effort has been made to include community input, consent, or consultation in the decision to locate a casino within my district.

I urge the Department of the Interior conduct a thorough review of the renegotiated compact once it is submitted, and require state legislators, local leaders, and members of our community receive full disclosure of the compact's provisions. Failure to do so should compel the Department to reject the proposed compact. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Morelle".

Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress